

Message Text

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16

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DLOS-07 OIC-04 CG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 CEQ-02 COA-02 COME-00

EB-11 EPA-04 IO-14 NSF-04 SCI-06 FEA-02 ACDA-19 AEC-11

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DRC-01 /215 W

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R 212112Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4300

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR VE

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PEREZ'S SPEECH AT OPENING OF LOS CONFERENCE

1. IN THE COURSE OF HIS LENGTHY SPEECH AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE III LOS CONFERENCE IN CARACAS ON JUNE 20, PRESIDENT PEREZ MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS AND REMARKS, APPARENTLY DIRECTED TO A WIDER AUDIENCE THAN THE LOS CONFERENCE:

2. "THE LESSON OF PETROLEUM SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND AND APPLIED DURING THE DELIBERATIONS OF THIS CONFERENCE. THE WEALTH OF A COUNTRY, OF A GROUP OF COUNTRIES, CAN BE EXPLOITED FOR YEARS, MANY YEARS, BUT NOT FOREVER. IT IS BETTER TO REACH AN UNDERSTANDING NOW ON THE UNIVERSAL, EQUITABLE USE OF THE OCEAN RESOURCES THAN TO FOLLOW THE OLD TRADITION OF THE POWERFUL EXPLOITING THE WEAK, OF CONFLICTS AND OF WARS."

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3. "ECONOMIC TOTALITARIANISM IS THE GREAT THREAT TO MANKIND ON THIS PLANET, AS EARLIER WAS COLONIALIST VORACIOUSNESS."

4. "VENEZUELA CANNOT FORGET THAT, AS A WEAK COUNTRY, IN THE PAST IT WAS A VICTIM OF THE (POWER) PLAY OF GREAT COLONIAL INTERESTS. THIS MEMORY SHOULD NOT NOURISH STERILE AND DESTRUCTIVE RANCOR BUT MAKE THE LESSON PERMANENT AND THE EXPERIENCE FRUITFUL."

5. "AS A SMALL COUNTRY WE ARE MAKING KNOWN (DIFUNDIMOS) AND WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE KNOWN THE RIGHTS WE POSSESS ON LAND, ON THE SEAS, THE CONTINENTAL SHELF AND THESEABEDS. BUT THE ATTITUDE OF VENEZUELA, AS HOST COUNTRY TO THIS CONFERENCE, IS TO AFFIRM AND STIMULATE EVERY EFFORT AIMED AT REACHING AGREEMENTS, UNDERSTANDING AND COMMON PROJECTS..."

6. "IN OUR LATIN AMERICA NO GREATER HOMAGE COULD BE PAID OUR LIBERATOR SIMON BOLIVAR IN THIS 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF AYACUCHO THAN TO SATISFY BOLIVIA, CREATED BY HIS LIBERATING SWORD AND NAMED AFTER HIM, IN ITS ASPIRATION FOR AN OUTLET TO THE SEA, AS WELL AS (TO SATISFY) ANOTHER OUTCRY OF LATIN AMERICA FOR THE PANAMA CANAL, AT THE SERVICE OF ALL MANKIND, TO BECOME AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE FULL SOVEREIGNTY OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA."

7. "VENEZUELA IS TAKING BASIC DECISIONS. ONE OF THEM IS WITH PETROLEUM, WHICH MUST BELONG TO THE VENEZUELAN STATE IN ITS FULL EXTENT. (ANOTHER IS) WITH IRON, IN THE SAME MANNER. (STILL ANOTHER IS) WITH THE BALANCE OF ECOLOGY, SO THAT NATURE WILL NOT CONTINUE TO BE HARMED BY VARIOUS FORMS OF DEVASTATION, AT TIMES BASED ON EQUIVOCAL AND CAPRICIOUS INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONCEPT OF PRIVATE PROPERTY OR ON PRIVILEGES WHICH HAVE BEEN ASSERTED IN OUR COUNTRIES UNDER THE UNACCEPTABLE CATEGORY OF VESTED RIGHTS."

8. "I CAN ANNOUNCE THAT VENEZUELA IS FULLY DETERMINED AND ALERT TO ASSESS AND DEFEND ITS RESOURCES AND TO DEVELOP AN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN CONSONANCE WITH ITS AIMS FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND LATIN AMERICAN INTEGRATION..."

9. COMMENT: MANY OF THE ABOVE REMARKS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN AIMED PARTICULARLY AT THE US. THEY ALSO SEEM TO BE INTENDED TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HELP MAKE UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND THEIR LOS DELEGATES FORGET THAT VENEZUELA IS IN FACT NO LONGER A HAVE-NOT COUNTRY. PEREZ'S REMARKS, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO BOLIVIA AND PANAMA, SEEM TO REFLECT PEREZ'S INTENTION TO USE HIS COUNTRY'S OIL CLOUT TO ENHANCE VENEZUELA'S PRETENSIONS TO LEADERSHIP IN LATIN AMERICA.
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